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US-PAT-NO: 6649341

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TITLE: Human glucocorticoid receptor 1A promoter and splice variants

DATE-ISSUED: November 18, 2003

## INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

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US-CL-CURRENT: 435/6; 435/320.1, 435/375, 435/69.1, 435/91.2, 530/300, 530/350, 536/23.1, 536/24.31, 536/24.33

## CLAIMS:

We claim:

1. A method to detect the presence of cancerous lymphocytes in a human, said method comprising the steps of: isolating mRNA from a sample of lymphocytes taken from the human, assaying the isolated mRNA for the presence of an mRNA transcript resulting from the transcription of the nucleic acid sequence from position 1076 to position 2056 of SEQ. ID NO. 1, by hybridizing a probe specific for a portion of the nucleic acid sequence from position 1383 to position 2056 of SEQ ID NO: 1, and detecting the presence of a hybridization product, wherein the presence of said product indicates a likelihood of cancerous lymphocytes.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the cancerous lymphocytes are T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia cells.
3. A method to determine the responsiveness of a patient with cancerous lymphocytes to future treatment with glucocorticoids, said method comprising the steps of: isolating lymphocytes from the patient, treating the isolated lymphocytes with a glucocorticoid, and isolating mRNA from both treated and untreated lymphocytes, assaying the isolated mRNA samples for the presence of an mRNA transcript resulting from the transcription of the nucleic acid sequence from position 1076 to position 2056 of SEQ. ID. NO. 1, by hybridizing a probe specific for a portion of the nucleic acid sequence from position 1383 to position 2056 of SEQ ID NO: 1, and detecting the presence of a hybridization product, wherein the presence of a hybridization product in the sample from the treated lymphocytes in a significantly greater amount than in the sample from the untreated lymphocytes indicates that the patient is likely to respond to treatment with glucocorticoid.

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